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To Margaret Hedstrom	From Jim Gardner	
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Phone # 313/747-3582	Phone #	
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URGENT

May 5, 1997

Margaret Hedstrom
Associate Professor
School of Information
University of Michigan
550 E. University Avenue
Room 304
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092

Dear Margaret:

I write to invite you to participate in a special meeting History Associates is convening on archiving digital information and records. With support from the Commission on Preservation and Access and the Council on Library Resources, we are bringing together representatives of key agencies and projects for a one-day meeting to review the status of efforts to archive digital information and records, explore how we can better coordinate our work, discuss funding possibilities, and set an agenda for action.

As you know, earlier this year, History Associates launched a new initiative on "Documenting the Digital Age." Among the various initiatives focusing on digital archives, HAI's February conference was unique in its sponsorship (the National Science Foundation, MCI Communications Corporation, and Microsoft Corporation) and in bringing together a wide range of public and private stakeholders, including key figures from the academic, archival, corporate, government, legal, and technology communities. What is common to our conference and other such efforts is a concern about the absence of direction and coordination on this issue. At our February meeting and in subsequent discussions with other interested individuals and agencies, we have been struck by the range of activities focused on digital archives and information, including conferences and other forums, research and development initiatives, pilot and demonstration projects, and other efforts to develop policies and identify good practice. The various reports and other publications produced over the past few years on digital archives provide valuable analysis and recommendations but also testify to a lack of coordination among the various players and funding agencies and our failure to develop a coherent national agenda.

To address this need, HAI is inviting representatives of appropriate agencies and projects to a meeting at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on May 23. The purpose of the one-day meeting will be to share findings, identify areas for collaborative work, discuss funding strategies, and set an agenda for future action. While we are trying to keep expenses to a minimum, we can cover your basic travel costs to attend. Obviously time is short--the meeting is only three weeks away. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can join us. I can be reached by phone at 202/363-3420 (although I will be out of town May 6-11), by fax at 202/785-3948, or by e-mail at 104316.2753@compuserve.com. If you are unable to participate, we would be interested in your suggesting another representative from your office.

We would also appreciate your sending me twenty copies of the report from your 1996 conference (which I have heard is now out) and any other materials that you feel would inform the meeting discussion. I will be sending copies of our draft conference report by May 14, so please get anything you want included in that mailing to me no later than May 13.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

James B. Gardner
Project Director

Dupont

3:05 - 4:32 Plaza

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769-5300

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